

Haemodialysis Access : Which To Choose ?

Nik Azuan Nik Ismail

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

Over the years most of us thought very little about dialysis access. Surgeons made arteriovenous (AV) access circuits and placed peritoneal dialysis catheters. Surgeons and interventional radiologists maintained AV circuits with surgical revision or angioplasty, respectively. Venous catheters were placed and exchanged when necessary but most of us suspected that we really did not know much about the optimal way to manage our patients' dialysis access needs.

But what are we missing? Do we know how to select the right dialysis modality for each patient? How good are our training programs? Do we understand the biology of AV access venous stenosis and if therapy can be individualised?